



Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

TO: Student Organization Leaders & Athletic Team Captains
FROM: Steve Lyons, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students
DATE: September 12, 2009
RE: Alcohol, Drugs and CSS

You all serve in leadership roles in some form on campus. With leadership comes responsibility; not only for your own actions, but for the group you represent. The choices you make, and the involvement of your organization and teams has a huge impact on the student culture of the campus.

The College of St. Scholastica has been fortunate not have any of our students be one of the **1,700 annually** who die from alcohol miss-use. Each year, CSS students are hospitalized because of alcohol poisoning and this year three students have been removed from the Residence Halls due to drugs. The balance between college students enjoying college life and students who put themselves and others at risk continues to blur. “Kevin’s Law” is a federal law that makes it a felony to provide alcohol to a person less than 21 years of age if that person causes or suffers death or great bodily harm. Minnesota State Law holds the host, not the college, responsible if anyone is harmed from alcohol use that occurs at their residence.

For those students who make poor choices the risks are great.

I am asking that you take the step to intentionally hold a discussion with your organization and team about alcohol and drug use. I am not asking that partying be condemned. I am not asking that it stop. I am asking, that as leaders you ask others to be responsible, you ask them to be safe, and that you role model that these are serious issues. The conversation may just help others, your friends, stay healthy and happy.

To that end, I ask that all leaders join the Campaign to Reduce Student Drinking (CRSD) at CSS. This is a new, multi-year initiative focused on harm and risk reduction for college drinkers. See the details at our Web site: <http://www.css.edu/CRSD.xml>, and join as a member. Once you have joined, you will receive a banner and wrist band. We ask you to display these to show your support for the campaign!

I thank you for taking on a leadership role, and for holding this discussion. I would love to hear feedback from you once you have this talk. Have a great year!